IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A method for operating a user-interactive multi-device audio-video system that contains user speech recognizing facilities and echo canceling facilities for avoiding the recognizing of speech output from the system as user speech,

~~characterized in that~~ wherein in the presence of a plural and functionally separate ~~such~~ ones of said speech recognizing facilities and echo canceling facilities, driving the echo canceling facilities to combine their forces ~~for~~ by one or more thereof for canceling one or more mutually unique cancelable speech entities and combining such cancelled entities for overall non-recognition by the system.

2. (Currently amended) The ~~A~~ method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein such combining operates by arranging various echo canceling facilities in series ~~(Figures 6, 7)~~.

3. (Currently amended) The ~~A~~ method as claimed in Claim 2, ~~and from~~ wherein said series arrangement feeding the speech recognizing facility in a centralized manner ~~(Figure 6).~~

4. (Currently amended) The ~~A~~ method as claimed in Claim 2, ~~and from~~ wherein said series arrangement feeding various speech recognizing facilities in a distributed manner ~~(Figure 7)~~.

5. (Currently amended) The ~~A~~ method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein such combining operates by centralizing said echo canceling facilities ~~in the system~~ and ~~therefrom~~ feeding various speech recognizing facilities in a distributed manner ~~(Figure 4)~~.

6. (Currently amended) The ~~A~~ method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein such combining operates by centralizing said echo canceling facilities and speech recognizing facilities in a joint control facility ~~(Figure 5)~~.

7. (Currently amended) The ~~A~~ method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein such combining operates by arranging ~~various~~ selected echo canceling facilities in a centralized control device (Figure 4) and ~~therefrom~~ feeding ~~various~~ selected speech recognizing facilities in parallel.

8. (Currently amended) A multi-device audio-video system that contains speech recognizing facilities and echo canceling facilities for avoiding the recognizing of speech output from the system as user speech,

~~characterized in that~~ wherein in the presence of a plural and functionally separate ~~such~~ ones of said speech recognizing facilities and echo canceling facilities, the echo canceling facilities are arranged to combine their forces through joint canceling means for canceling one or more mutually unique cancelable speech entities and combining means for combining such cancelled entities for overall non-recognition by the system.

9. (Currently amended) The ~~A~~ system as claimed in Claim 8, wherein such combining means include a serial arrangement that arranges ~~various~~ selected echo canceling facilities in series ~~(Figures 6, 7)~~.

10. (Currently amended) The ~~A~~ system as claimed in Claim 9, ~~arranged for from~~ wherein said series arrangement feeding the speech recognizing facility in a centralized manner ~~(Figure 6)~~.

11. (Currently amended) The ~~A~~ system as claimed in Claim 9, ~~arranged for from~~ wherein said series arrangement feeding various speech recognizing facilities in a distributed manner ~~(Figure 7)~~.

12. (Currently amended) The ~~A~~ system as claimed in Claim 8, wherein such combining means have said echo canceling facilities centralized in a control device and are arranged for feeding various speech recognizing facilities in a distributed manner ~~(Figure 4)~~.

13. (Currently amended) The ~~A~~ system as claimed in Claim 8, wherein such combining means are arranged for centralizing said echo canceling facilities and speech recognizing facilities in a joint control facility ~~(Figure 5)~~.

14. (Currently amended) The ~~A~~ system as claimed in Claim 8, wherein such combining means are arranged for centralizing ~~various~~ selected echo canceling facilities ~~(Figure 4)~~ and ~~therefrom~~ feeding ~~various~~ selected speech recognizing facilities in parallel.

15. (Currently amended) A speech enhanced device for use in a multi-device audio-video system ~~as claimed in Claim 8 and~~ having speech recognizing facilities and echo canceling facilities for avoiding the recognizing of speech output from the device as user speech~~,~~

~~being characterized by having~~ comprising speech input/output means interposed between said interconnected speech recognizing and echo canceling facilities, for intercoupling another such device.

16. (Currently amended) The ~~A~~ device as claimed in Claim 15, ~~and having~~ further comprising:

control means for selectively disabling one or more of said speech-recognizing facilities, said echo canceling facilities and audio output facilities of the device.

17. (Currently amended) The ~~A~~ device as claimed in Claim 15, ~~and having~~ further comprising:

microphone out means and furthermore control means for selectively controlling one or more of said speech recognizing facilities, said echo canceling facilities, and said microphone out means.